

TIP OF THE SWORD

April 16, 2004

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



SECAF visits

'Incirlik's role will continue to be an important one'

TIP OF THE SWORD

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Courtesy Photo

Mehmet Nur Tanisik (left), attorney and adviser for the 39th Air Base Wing, reviews legal documents at the Office of Defense Cooperation-Turkey, Ankara. Mr. Tanisik received an Air Force-level award for the first time after 25 years of working for the Air Force. See related story, Page 5.

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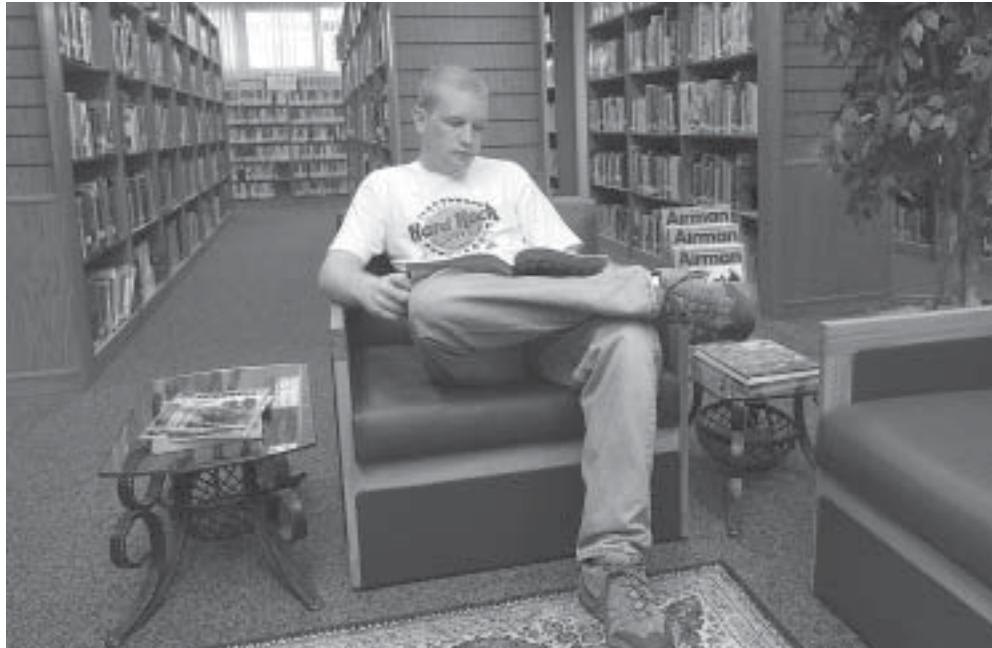


Photo by Senior Airman James Seymour III

Senior Airman Robinson Smith, 385th Air Expeditionary Group KC-135 maintainer, enjoys some 'quiet time' relaxing in the base library. National Library Week is Sunday through Saturday. See related photo, Page 12.

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Secretary of the Air Force James Roche visited Incirlik Air Base Wednesday to discuss Air Force priorities, the war on terrorism and future goals. See related story, Page 3. (Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards.)

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From the top

SECAF outlines top priorities, future Air Force goals

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force's top civilian focused on Air Force priorities, the global war on terrorism and future goals during a visit to Incirlik Wednesday.

"People, of course, are the No. 1 priority," said Dr. James Roche, secretary of the Air Force. "Any organization is only as effective as the people in it. We do a lot of things for our Airmen, not because we're philanthropic, but because we believe to have a dynamic Air Force, we have to invest in our Airmen."

The first step to ensuring this investment is well spent is to streamline the force.

"We're 16,000 Airmen in excess," Dr. Roche said. "After we lifted stop-loss, we had a lot of Airmen who didn't want to leave. We have to reevaluate our normal annual loss and gain, as well as our bonuses and reenlistment decisions. That's smart business. Airmen are a very valuable resource, and one that costs money."

Dr. Roche said leaders plan on taking the force and reorienting it to a future in air and space.

"To keep the Air Force effective and efficient, we have to look at what the nation will be asking of us 10, 20, 30 years from now, or next week," he said. "We have to look at our core competencies and what we expect the nation will ask, and stay focused."

This vision includes taking practical measures in the present and near future, which include boosting the role of special operations, developing the potential of warfighting in space and working more closely with ground forces, such as the Army and Marines in Iraq, Dr. Roche said.

This partnership with ground forces is evident at Incirlik, as the base is helping thousands of soldiers and Airmen supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom transit to and from the battlefield.

"When Gen. (John) Jumper (Air Force chief of staff) recently returned from a visit to Incirlik, he told me how excited I'd be when I got here," Dr. Roche said. "He was exactly right. This effort continues to show our interest and commitment to our counterparts from other military branches.

"We have colleagues on the ground, and if there's anything we can do to make their lives a little more pleasant, then that's what we should do," he added.

The secretary emphasized the importance of staying focused during the ongoing battles in Iraq, which raised in intensity over the past month in places like Fallujah.

"It's going to be a long, drawn out ordeal," he said. "It's not going to be won next week or the week after. We have to keep working at it and getting better at it. We must make sure the terrorists can't put together the critical mass to do the damage."

As evidenced by the recent bombings in Madrid and Istanbul, a



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Dr. James Roche, secretary of the Air Force, is greeted by Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Levent Turkman, 10th Tanker Base commander, Wednesday during a base visit. Dr. Roche talked about how important the base is for mobility and stamping out sexual assault and harassment.

small group of people can cause a devastating amount of death and political consequence, Dr. Roche said.

"This is a matter of vigilance over a long period of time," he said. "We can't allow terrorists safe haven to plot against us and our allies. I know the Turks feel as we do; this type of behavior has no place in modern society. Let's stamp this thing out."

Closer to home, Dr. Roche is intent on also stamping out a more subtle enemy – sexual assault and harassment.

"We learned a lot from the Air Force Academy," he said. "We were holding the Air Force up as a model, but we found, during a sampling, that there is room for improvement. That led us to look at every command and every base."

For example, the Air Force needs to change how it deals with the alleged victim, the secretary said.

"There are systems in place to help the victim during the investi-

gation, but if there's no crime to prosecute, then we stop," he said. "But, the victim still has needs, as does the accused. Our whole point is to treat each Airman with dignity. However, if someone does something wrong, there will be consequences."

As the Air Force continues to evolve and grow, Dr. Roche said Incirlik's role will continue to be an important one.

"One thing is quite clear, this base is a key point for mobility," he said. "It has the potential to be expanded, as with Operation Northern Watch. The future for Incirlik is still being developed.

"What you do is very important," he said. "If you don't believe it, come down here next time some soldiers come through. What you do is meaningful, both here and to people back home."

"What you do is very important. If you don't believe it, come down here next time some soldiers come through. What you do is meaningful, both here and to people back home."

– Dr. James Roche
Secretary of the Air Force

Air Force announces TSP open season

'Don't walk; run to finance and sign-up today'

By Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Civilian and military employees can sign up for or change their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the open season through June 30.

The Thrift Savings Plan is a long-term retirement savings plan.

"All of us will eventually retire," said James Kenney, 39th Services Squadron family support center TSP consultant. "The sooner you start saving, the longer compound interest can be working for you.

"TSP has five different options, all the way from very conservative to adventurous," he added. "You know how much risk you can tolerate, and TSP gives you that flexibility."

This open season applies only to regular TSP contributions. It does not include TSP catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, according to Janet Thomas, AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

"Starting a TSP account means you are paying yourself first," said Mr. Kenney. "The interest will work for you and your future. Make a commitment now so you will have more to show for your time in Turkey than a tattoo, copper bowl or a carpet."

TSP offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

"All of us need to take responsibility and plan for our own retirements," said Mr. Kenney. "Don't walk; run to finance and sign-up today. Use some of that hostile fire pay and money you are not paying in taxes to start planning for your future.

"Incirlik is a unique assignment," he continued. "People are not facing huge electric bills this summer, putting 18,000 miles a year on their cars or paying \$2 a gallon for gas. They're not paying \$8 for movie

Some specifics of the program:

- ♦ Military members can contribute up to 9 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment doesn't exceed \$13,000 for 2004. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.
- ♦ Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.
- ♦ Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) can be made by calling the TSP automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/>. For general TSP questions, call the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775.
- ♦ Specific TSP information is available for Air Force military personnel at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm.

tickets or \$25 a person to go out and eat. You need to take some of that extra money and start saving for your future. If we can not save a little in Turkey, where can we?"

The five TSP funds are: Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund; and International Stock Index.

Contribution elections and changes made through June 12 will take effect June 13, for both military and civilian personnel. Changes made on or after June 13 will become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military.

For more information, call Mr. Kenney at 6-6755.

Saving Earth one bath at a time

Penny Whaley, child development center program technician, scrubs her dishes, clothes and sons (from left) Christopher, 9, Justin, 5, and Aric, 3, demonstrating extreme water-conservation measures. Water conservation is just one way to contribute to Earth Day Thursday. Here are a few other ways people can play a role in preserving the environment:

1. Bike or walk to work
2. Spay and neuter pets
3. Vehicle tune up
4. Set heater low and air conditioner high
5. Set hot water heater to 120 degrees
6. Hang-dry clothes
7. Conserve water
8. Turn off lights
9. Keep doors and windows closed when running heat or air conditioner
10. Plant a tree

(Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, 39th Operations Squadron terminal instrument procedures specialist)



Photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets

Seen' blue

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Akerson, 39th Communications Squadron, presented the new Air Force uniform to base leadership Tuesday. Sergeant Akerson was one of many Air Force people selected to test-wear the uniform. An upcoming issue of the *Tip of the Sword* will ask Sergeant Akerson several questions about the new uniform. To submit questions for Sergeant Akerson to answer, e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.

Ankara JAG member takes top Air Force-level award

By 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson
39th Maintenance Group

A member of the Ankara legal office recently won the Air Force's highest honor in his field.

Mehmet Nur Tanisik is the winner of the James O. Wrightson, Jr., Outstanding Civilian Attorney of the Year award.

Mr. Tanisik is an attorney and adviser for the 39th Air Base Wing, working at the Office of Defense Cooperation-Turkey in Ankara. This is his 25th year working for the Air Force, and although he received U.S. Air Forces in Europe-level Outstanding Attorney of the Year award five times in the past, this is his first Air Force-level award.

Mr. Tanisik routinely works on projects and issues of major significance to both Turkey and the United States, including Turkish labor and tax law, the Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement, NATO Status of Forces

Agreement and other international law concerns. He has served as legal adviser to the management team for every Collective Labor Agreement negotiation since 1980 and has represented the United States in numerous civil and criminal cases in Turkey.

"It has been my honor and privilege to work with Nur (Mr. Tanisik) over the past four years," said Lt. Col. Christopher Lozo, 39th ABW staff judge advocate. "This Air Force award merely confirms what we've known about Nur all along — that he is the best, and we're proud to have him on our team."

"I like my job very much; I like to help the U.S. Air Force with every issue that's asked of me," said Mr. Tanisik.

As a JAG corps annual award winner, Mr. Tanisik "exemplifies our Air Force core values and amplifies them with initiative and amazing talents," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Fiscus, Judge Advocate General of the Air Force.

Estate claims

People with claims against the estate of Master Sgt. Andre White, who was assigned to the 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron, should contact Capt. Peter Nigro, 39th LRS summary courts officer, at 6-6737.

Munitions Road closure

A limited closure along the Munitions Road is scheduled to reopen May 31. The closure is effective from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will effect one side of the road at a time. To help ensure safety, flagmen will be posted in both directions to help direct traffic. For more information, call Alfred Thomas, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron construction inspector, at 6-8020 or 6-3433.

A Street road closure

Today and Saturday, A Street will be closed from the softball fields going northeast to the Information, Tickets and Tours area, Building 682. Buildings 675, 678, 680 and 682 will be impacted. For more information, call Paul Swinney, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron construction management chief, at 6-8020.

DEROS election RIPS

People with a date of return from overseas of February 2005 should have received their DEROS option report of individual personnel. This RIP allows members to keep or extend their original DEROS. People who have not received a RIP or for more information, call unit command support staffs or the military personnel flight relocations element at 6-3225.

Fall VML announcement

Officers vulnerable to relocate during the October through January permanent change of station cycle can review the personnel requirements display on the Assignment Management System Web page at <https://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/amsweb/master.cfm>. For more information, call the military personnel flight relocations element at 6-3225.

GOV fuel key re-code

A base-wide vehicle and organization tank fuel key recode is in progress. Vehicle control officers should take fuel keys to the resource control center in Building 124 by April 16 to be recoded. For more information, call 6-6469.



Tech. Sgt. Donna Pena, 39th Air Base Wing Legal Office assistant law office manager and girl scouts volunteer, passes out marshmallows to build an edible camp fire. "I like being part of something bigger than myself," she said.

Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

For many people, the term "Girl Scouts" either conjures up memories of Brownie uniforms and summertime camp outs or the desperate hunt for cookie stands when the Thin Mint craving strikes.

For people like Tech. Sgt. Donna Pena, the Girl Scouts carries a deeper meaning – the chance to make a difference.

"I like being part of something bigger than myself," said Sergeant Pena, 39th Air Base Wing Legal Office assistant law office manager and Girl Scout volunteer. "When I see the girls smiling at a Girl Scout event or after a big accomplishment, I know I've done something good, and that makes me happy."

Sergeant Pena is one of more than 700 Incirlik volunteers honored during National Volunteer Week, a time set aside each year to salute America's "hidden heroes." This year's volunteer week is Sunday through April 24.

"It's a time to thank people who wouldn't normally receive any recognition," said Christina Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist. "Without volunteers, a lot of our base functions wouldn't exist, especially our youth and chapel services."

To honor base volunteers, the volunteer week committee is organizing a reception Thursday at 4 p.m. at the consolidated club complex.

"Anyone is welcome to attend," Ms. Politte said. "It's a great way for the community to put the spotlight on our hard-working volunteers."

At the reception, a Volunteer Excellence Award will be presented to the top civilian volunteer of the year as well as several Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medals.

Ms. Politte said she hopes the reception will spark an interest in volunteer recognition.

"But recognition doesn't have to be limited to one week a year," she said. "You can nominate a volunteer anytime by filling out a form on the Source (go to Combat Programs, then Hidden Heroes). Once the form is coordinated, the wing commander will present a coin and certificate on the spot."

National Volunteer Week honors 'hidden heroes'

Incirlik people reach out, make a difference in lives of others

People can recognize volunteers in less formal venues as well.

"Take time to thank someone who has volunteered in your office or at a recreational activity," she said. "Some people are too shy for public recognition, but just saying 'I appreciate you' can have a big impact."

Although there's a steady stream of people willing to lend a hand, Ms. Politte said there's always room for more.

"We never have a shortage of volunteer positions," she said. "People can stop by the family support center and check out the list anytime."

"But you don't have to be a troop leader or sports coach to be called a volunteer," Ms. Politte added. "A lot of people volunteer and don't even realize it. How many of us have helped wrap gifts or set up chairs at a holiday party? Anything you do that's above and beyond your normal job is a volunteer effort."

The effort is worth it, Sergeant Pena said.

"When my daughter was 7, we attended our first Girl Scout meeting together," she said. "She asked me to be a leader, and my heart just swelled. As soon as I was able, I became one and was hooked for life."

"I hope, by being a volunteer for the Girl Scouts or some other event, I'm setting a good example for my children," she said. "It feels wonderful to know that I can make a difference in someone's life by just dedicating a few hours of my time."

For more information about National Volunteer Week or to find out about volunteer opportunities, call Ms. Politte at 6-6755.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Tech. Sgt. Tiffani Johnson, 39th Services Squadron sports director, helps Army Staff Sgt. Timothy Evan, 19th Brigade Corps Division operations NCO, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, input workout information into the FitLinxx program Tuesday.

Virtual exercise

FitLinxx turns computers into fitness-tracking tools

By Tech. Sgt. Melissa Phillips
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Incirlik fitness enthusiasts will soon see a kiosk at the gym that might take a load off their minds, so they will no longer have to remember the repetition and weight they lifted at their last workout.

Participants can view their information on the kiosk screen in a program called FitLinxx, which is a software-based, fitness-tracking program founded in 1993. The program is free for people with access to the base gym.

The power to track your fitness level is also just a mouse click away from your office or home computer now at <http://Incirlik.fitlinxx.com>, said Mr. Dick Gooley, 39th Services Squadron fitness and sports director.

Accessing FitLinxx

Military members who were stationed at Incirlik prior to December are automatically loaded in FitLinxx. Members arriving after November 2003 need to be logged into the system. Dependents, civilian workers and contractors, and foreign military members and dependents must request to be loaded in the system by a fitness staff member.

Once on the site, members enter the last five digits of their social security number for their user ID and a password of their choice.

Tracking progress

It's also a virtual helping hand for the military members' and their unit fitness program

monitors, who can now check up on members who need to increase their score in the mandatory fitness program.

Finding motivation

The Web site isn't just a tracking program. It's also a virtual cheerleader for healthy living with expert information on topics from strength training to how to pick the right running shoe.

It even sports a link called "take the Air Force Fitness test" that calculates your fitness score and adds up scores in each test category.

"I believe FitLinxx will help prevent members from being kicked out of the military due to poor fitness or weight issues, because it helps motivate individuals to work out more and track their work outs," said Tech. Sgt. Tiffani Johnson, 39th Services Squadron sports director, who has used FitLinxx for more than four months.

More bells and whistles

Incirlik has currently implemented phase one of the FitLinxx program, which gives users access to the Web site, and installs the kiosk, which is projected to be in use within the month.

Phase two is to install strength and cardio modules at individual cardio and strength machines that link directly into the FitLinxx system and track workout progress as you do it.

For more information, call Mr. Gooley at 6-6294, Sergeant Johnson at 6-1109, or the fitness center front desk at 6-6086.



LU2G reunion — Link Up 2 Golf 2003 graduates are invited to a 9-hole outing today at 5 p.m. at the golf course. Cost is \$5 per person and includes green fees, club rental and cart. For more information, call 6-8995.

Volleyball league — Intramural volleyball league starts Monday. Matches are 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. at the fitness center. For more information, call 6-6086.

Volleyball — The men's and women's base volleyball teams are practicing for the upcoming volleyball season. Anyone interested in playing on the teams can go to practices Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 until 8 p.m., or call Senior Master Sgt. Don Dufner, 39th Air Base Wing manpower and organization chief, at 6-3690.

Coaches needed — The youth center needs volunteers to coach youth baseball. The season runs Saturday to June 12. For more information, call Bo Benton, 39th Services Squadron recreation specialist, at 6-6670.

Bowling leagues — The Magic Carpet Bowling Center sponsors intramural league bowling Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 6-6789.

Rugby — Rugby enthusiasts meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. at the high school sports field. Everyone is welcome. Instruction is provided for beginners. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.

Skeet and trap shooting — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10, and includes shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

Rhythmic gymnastics — Rhythmic gymnastics are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. for ages 5 and up. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. For more information, call the youth center at 6-6670.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander

Since taking command last month I have been to nearly every corner of the base ... both day and night. I am constantly impressed by the professionalism and spirit of our people. The base is looking great and we are making progress on all fronts, but much remains to be done. Challenge yourself daily to improve yourself, your work section and Incirlik Air Base as a whole. Remember, don't count the days, make the days count!

Secretary of the Air Force

This week we had the honor of hosting a visit by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche. Secretary Roche is a great advocate of Airmen and airpower and his leadership has been key to the success of the world's greatest Air Force. I always look forward to showing off the great accomplishments of the men and women we have serving at Incirlik to distinguished visitors.

Awards

Once again, Team Incirlik is receiving well-deserved recognition for the accomplishments of our Airmen here.

Congratulations to **Capt. Robert Leo**, 39th Maintenance Squadron, for capturing the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Company Grade Officer of the Year award.

Also, the **39th Security Forces Squadron** was USAFE's Best Installation Antiterrorism Program Award winner.

Good luck to everyone as they compete at Air-Force level.

Combat Proud

I want to personally thank everyone for participating in Tuesday's Combat Proud base-wide initiative. When we pull together, even for one morning, the entire base benefits from the outcome. Keep in mind that pride in appearance spills over into pride in work, mission accomplishment, esprit-de-corps and customer satisfaction.

Commander's action line

The action line program provides an avenue for the Incirlik community to voice their concerns, complaints and opinions to Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander.

The program should only be used after you've tried resolving the issue through your chain of command.

People can submit an action line by e-mailing action.line@incirlik.af.mil or calling the 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office at 6-6060. Complaints will be edited to 300 words or less.

Questions and responses may be printed in the *Tip of the Sword*.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander, contributes to the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign Tuesday. The campaign runs through April 23. This year's motto, 'A commitment to caring,' reflects the campaign's goal to sponsor an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force members in need. For more information, contact your unit AFAF representative.

New Air Force uniform

The much-anticipated arrival of the new Air Force uniform to Incirlik came Tuesday as Staff Sgt. Jeremy Akerson, 39th Communications Squadron, presented it during wing stand-up. An upcoming issue of the *Tip of the Sword* will ask Airman Akerson several questions about the new uniform. Submit your questions for him to: tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.

Force Protection

Remember, force protection is my No. 1 priority. With the warmer weather here, many of you are venturing farther and farther from the base. I encourage you to continue to travel and see this wonderful country, but please be safe. Dress conservatively, don't travel alone, and check for suspicious activity or objects around your car before getting in or out of it. Do not touch your vehicle until you have thoroughly checked it by looking inside it, walking around it and looking under it. Report any suspicious activity to the law enforcement desk at 6-3200.

Children's festival at Arkadas Park

The 10th Tanker Base will host a children's festival at Arkadas Park April 25 from 1 to 6 p.m.

The festival is in honor of the National Sovereignty and Children's Day and is aimed at elementary school children between 6 and 13 years old.

An elementary school from Adana will take part in the festival and activities. Children will perform dances as well as Turkish folk dances. Turkish boy scouts will sing, and clowns will play with the children.

A group of American children from the elementary school will also sing and Turkish-American children will perform a tae kwon do show.

Food and drinks will be served at no charge.

American children and families are welcome to attend.



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

A spider's web

Question: Mehmet, the other day my husband was going to step on a spider in our house to kill it, but our Turkish maid was upset and said it was a special spider. Why are spiders considered special, and how can we keep them out of the house so we don't have to kill them?

Response: I believe that your maid's reaction is from a story traced back to the time of Prophet Mohammed, the founder of Islam.

Mohammed started Islam in his hometown, Mecca, and his religion started to spread in nearby towns as well.

The leadership of Mecca was totally against him.

Mohammed understood that his life was

in danger in Mecca, so he and his close friend Abu-Bakr left Mecca secretly and went to Medina. Meccan troops searched for them in every corner, cave and cavity between Mecca and Medina.

Mohammed and Abu-Bakr were almost caught, but they hid in a small cave. A miracle happened as spiders started to spin a heavy web at the entrance of the cave.

The people looking for Mohammed and Abu-Bakr came to the entrance of the cave covered with heavy spider web.

Seeing the web, the troops said, "If Mohammed were in that cave he would have destroyed the web. Let's not waste time here."

That's how Mohammed was saved from being caught and executed by the Meccan troops.

Some people believe that spiders should be privileged since they saved the prophet's life.

Others believe that all animals have the right to live and should not be killed. Allah creates them, and only Allah has the word on their life.

By the way, do you know how most mosques in Turkey are protected from spiders and webs? They protect themselves



Courtesy photo

with ostrich eggs.

Mosques, including the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Selimiye Mosque in Edirne and Old Mosque in Adana have ostrich eggs hanging inside them. The new Sabanci Mosque in Adana doesn't have an ostrich egg yet, but I expect to see one soon.

Ostrich eggs give off a scent that keeps spiders away, but remains unnoticed by humans.

Even more interesting, that method is quite effective and one egg is good for hundreds of years.

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

AEF is heart of Air Force organizational transformation

By Lt. Col. Timothy Fay

65th Operations Support Squadron commander

LAJES FIELD, Azores — AEF. These three letters represent the heart of the organizational transformation of our Air Force, yet somehow this ever-growing and evolving Air and Space Expeditionary Force construct is often misunderstood by many of our own Air Force's air and space power warriors.

With another AEF rotation on short-final, this is a great time to review the fundamentals of the AEF concept and what it means to us as Air Force warriors.

While a bit daunting at first, I went to Air Force Link and looked it up. Right on the home page is a hot link to the Air Force's Transformational Flight Plan.

It describes the AEF as a wealth of capabilities. This "bucket" is how the Air Force presents its forces to combatant commanders. Comparing it to a sister service, the Navy has long presented its forces in carrier battle groups. Every commander in every service understood that each carrier battle group could steam so far, so fast and put "X" many weapons on target over "Y" many days. It was a known quantity of capabilities.

Each AEF is a combination of combat air forces, mobility air forces, expeditionary combat support, and low density and high demand assets. Together, this synergistic basket of capabilities is wrapped into one AEF package.

Right now, our Air Force is divided into 10 AEFs. We pair two of these AEFs together, so in total we have five AEF rotations. This means that if things are steady in the world, each expeditionary Airman must be ready to deploy during their regular AEF vulnerability window

for 90 days every 15-month period.

What does this mean to the warriors of Team (Incirlik)? First and foremost, we are all part of the AEF and must be ready to go when needed. This means all of our readiness "ducks" must be in a row.

This ranges from medical to training readiness, to personal and family readiness issues. Each of your units has a readiness officer or NCO that ensures we all remain prepared, but each one of us is ultimately responsible for keeping ourselves as ready as possible at all times.

Of course when we have a major operation like Iraqi Freedom, the Air Force must do what's needed. The regular rotation schedule may be modified or extended to win the war.

Why do we do things this way? The Air Force chief of staff wants to make our lives better. If we know when our AEF "turn" is coming and how long it will last, then we can plan our personal and professional lives and prepare to fight.

It adds stability to our lives and predictability to our deployments. The AEF also helps solve our Air Force's problem of how to prepare to fight in a chaotic world. We no longer know from who or where the challenges to freedom will come from in the world, so we must be ready to go anywhere, anytime—ready to fight and win. The AEF rotation gets and keeps us ready.

In addition to deploying, this means that the regular AEF rotation we see in the form of iron on the ramp moving forward to the fight was, is, and will remain a key part of Lajes' mission contribution to the warfighter. We provide the best en route support for expeditionary forces in the world, and your efforts continue to ensure that this will always remain the case.

This is our Air Force's AEF—the way we now are organized to fight and win.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Today

Pre-teen games night — There will be a pre-teen game night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the youth center. Children and preteens ages 6 to 12 are welcome. Cost is \$4 for members and \$5 for all others. For more information, call 6-6670.

Teen dance — The youth center sponsors a teen dance from 9 to 11 p.m. Teens 13 to 18 are welcome. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, call 6-6670.

Kid's movie night — The community center will show Lion King 1 1/2 from 6 to 8 p.m. for children. This event is free, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 6-6966.

Saturday

Base pool opens — The Incirlik pool opens. Open swim hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Lap swim hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 6 to 7 a.m. and from 11 to 1 p.m. Pool passes are on sale at outdoor recreation. For more information, call 6-6044.

Madden football challenge — The community center hosts a Madden challenge from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$10, winner takes the cash. Players must be 18 years or older. For more information, call 6-6966.

Spring cleaning flea market — The community center hosts a flea market from 1 to 5 p.m. Free to shop, tables are \$10. Tables are limited, call early. For more information, call 6-6966.

Basic sewing — A basic sew-

ing group meets at the skills development center from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Machine- and hand-sewers of all skill levels are welcome. Assistance is available for sewing machine use, sewing techniques and more. For more information, call 6-3858.

Tumblin' Tots — The youth center sponsors Tumblin' Tots Saturdays from 1 to 2 p.m. Ages 2 to 4 welcome. Cost is \$5 a month. For more information, call 6-6670.

Spay/Neuter Day — The Incirlik stray animal facility seeks volunteers to help spay and neuter captured stray animals at the vet clinic from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Medical and surgical technicians are needed to assist the veterinarian and people are also needed to help during pre-and post-operation procedures. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, stray animal facility volunteer, at 6-6072 or 6-5433 or e-mail her at caroline.wood@incirlik.af.mil.

Stray facility beautification day — The stray animal facility seeks volunteers to help during the stray animal facility beautification day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to perform various tasks including cleaning, painting and putting up fences. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, stray animal facility volunteer, at 6-6072 or 6-5433 or e-mail her at caroline.wood@incirlik.af.mil.

Kid's Day — In recognition of April being the Month of the Military Child, the Incirlik horse stables is sponsoring a Kid's Day from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$10 and includes basic horsemanship and safety lessons, a tour of the stables, games and various activities, and pony rides. Photos will also be available at an additional cost. For more information, call Angela Hill, Country Plains Riding Club publicity representative, at 6-2153.

Tuesday

Beginners ceramic class —

The skills development center offers a two-part class Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 and covers how to pour ceramics. For more information, call the skills center at 6-3858.

Thursday

Membership breakfast — The club hosts a membership breakfast from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. No reservations needed. Cost is free for members and children ages 6 and younger, \$2.95 for guests, \$1.95 for children ages 6 to 12, and \$5.95 for non-members. For more information, call 6-6101.

Flower arranging class — The skills development center offers a flower arranging class from 5 to 8 p.m. Instruction is \$10; materials are an additional cost. For more information, call 6-3858.

Upcoming

USAFE Chess Tournament — The community center hosts the preliminaries for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Chess Tournament April 24 from 1 to 6 p.m. The competition is open to all ages. For more

information, call 6-6966.

Scrapbooking Club — The scrapbooking club meets April 24 from noon to 4 p.m. Newcomers of all skill levels are welcome. For more information, call 6-3858.

Pre-teen movie lock-in — The youth center sponsors a pre-teen movie lock-in April 24 from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The lock-in is open to children and preteens ages 7 through 12. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-member. Cost includes late-night refreshments and breakfast. For more information, call 6-6670.

Youth movie day — The youth center hosts a youth movie day April 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. Children ages 4 and 5 welcome. Cost is \$4 and includes hot dogs, chips and a drink. For more information, call 6-6670.

Ceramic sea turtles — The skills development center offers ceramic sea turtle class April 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more information, call 6-3858.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Friday

Children's Story Hour — The library sponsors a children's story hour open to preschool children 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. every Friday. For more information, call 6-6759.

Tuesday

PWOC Spring Bible studies — Combat Touch hosts Protestant Women of the Chapel spring Bible studies Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. For more information,

call Monica Matthews, PWOC president, at 6-2298.

Thursday

Project CHEER needs volunteers — Project CHEER meets Thursdays at 3 p.m. in the services conference room. For more information, call 6-6441.

Ongoing

Girl Scout volunteers needed — Volunteers are needed for several positions. For more information, call Donna Pena, overseas committee chair, at 6-6800.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Tech. Sgt. Michael Brown,
39th Operations Squadron air traffic control
standardization and evaluation chief

Time on station: Two years and three months

Time in service: 17 years

Hometown: Rocklin, Calif.

Hobbies: Spending time with my family and participating in youth activities

How do you contribute to the air base wing's mission? As a member of an outstanding training team, I help to guarantee that the air traffic controllers at Incirlik are ready for any mission, anytime.

What do you like most about Incirlik? The

people that I work with and the opportunities that I have been given for career growth
Why did you join the Air Force? I joined the Air Force because I wanted to be an air traffic controller.

What's your favorite motto and why?

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless" — Mother Teresa.

What Air Force core value best describes you, and why? Integrity first. I strive on a

daily basis to place integrity first, not because the Air Force demands it but, because I demand it myself. I cannot be a good leader of others either in the Air Force or outside of the Air Force if I compromise my integrity.

Supervisor's quote: "In a career field where adhering to standards can be the difference between life and death, Mike is at the top of his field," said Capt. Tammy Abbett, 39th OS Airfield Operations Flight commander. "He led a team of professionals through an Air Force-level inspection with zero write ups, an absolutely amazing feat. He is, without a doubt, one of my best performers."

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

It's National Volunteer Week. How do you get involved in your community?

"I collect box tops for education for the Incirlik Elementary School and volunteer with the Parent Teacher Organization to be an active part of my daughter's, Gena, 5, education."

— **Missy Poole, homemaker, and Eleanor, 11 months**



"I teach step classes and mentor teens. They're both something I like to do."

— **Airman 1st Class Adrian Wilson, 728th Air Mobility Squadron**



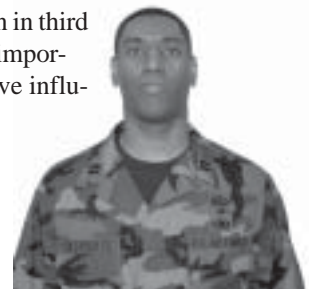
"I was president of the Incirlik Officer's Spouses Club, volunteered with the Red Cross and baked homemade goods for the soldiers coming through here. I've been blessed with so many things that I want to spread some of the blessings back."

— **Michelle Storch, homemaker**



"I mentor children in third grade. I think it's important to be a positive influence in children's lives."

— **Capt. Dennis Clements, 39th Contracting Squadron**



"I volunteer at the family support center, Red Cross, Girl Scouts and Hispanic Heritage Club. It keeps me busy, and it's a way to get to know people."

— **Robin Atwell, homemaker**



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: 1998 Nissan Pathfinder SE, four-wheel drive, automatic transmission, power windows and locks, dual airbags, alarm system, CD and cassette player, sunroof, new tires. Excellent condition. Regularly serviced at authorized Nissan dealer, 57,000 miles. Available in early July. \$14,000 OBO. Call Harry Kamian at 0532-730-4610 or e-mail kamianhr@state.gov or harrykamian@hotmail.com.

For sale: Jewelry armoire, solid oak with lined interior. \$40. Call 6-2305.

For sale: 1989 Toyota Town Ace four-wheel drive van. Great condition, extremely low miles. Fun for travel. Must sell. \$3,200 OBO. Call Tonya at 6-2129 or 0533-526-1489 or e-mail tonia.jiron@incirlik.af.mil.

For sale: Graco double stroller, excellent condition, \$40. Toros 12 gauge, eight-shot semi automatic with pump, never fired, comes with cleaning kit and case, \$100 OBO. Call Pete at 6-2393.

For sale: Two twin-size beds, including oak head boards, metal frames, mattresses, box springs and bedding. Great condition. \$200 OBO. Two small girls bicycles, best offer. Assorted stuffed animals and toys, best offer. Small cat-scratching pole and tunnel, best offer. Call Steve or Ellen at 6-5267.

Wanted: The Incirlik Legal Office has an immediate need for 13 to 28 sheet strip cut paper shredders. For more information or to transfer shredders, call legal at 6-6800.

ders. For more information or to transfer shredders, call legal at 6-6800.

Education technician wanted: The Incirlik Education Office has a position for an assistant education technician position (solicitation number: FA5685-040T-0012) available. This is a contract position and applicants must apply no later than April 30. For more information or for a copy of the solicitation, call Senior Airman Dartamien Brown, 39th Contracting Squadron contract specialist, at 6-8075 or vie e-mail at dartamein.brown@incirlik.af.mil.

VBR clerk position available: Vinnell, Brown and Root seeks an American national to fill a dormitory assignments clerk position. Applicants must be mechanically inclined, have strong computer skills and able to lift 25 pounds. For more information, visit www.vbr-turkey.com.

PTO positions available: Incirlik Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization needs volunteers. Permanent board and ongoing subcommittee member positions are available. For more information, call Robin Crowe at 6-2471 before April 30.

Free to good home: Talker, a domestic short-hair cat, is free to a good home. Talker requires shots and AVID, an American Veterinarian Identification Device, for adoption. For more information, visit the stray animal facility in Building 6048 near the old tent city area Saturdays from 9 to 10 a.m. or call Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, stray animal facility volunteer, at 6-6072.

Life guards needed: Full-time and part-time life guards are needed for the summer season at the base pool. These are contract positions. Turkish and U.S. applicants welcome. For more information, call outdoor recreation at 6-6044.

Book him



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III



LaToya Broyles, 39th Services Squadron librarian technician,

checks the ID card of Staff Sgt. Steven Peter Luu, a medic TDY from 48th Medical Operations Squadron, Laken-heath Royal Air Base, England, before loaning out a computer to him.

Incirlik observes National Library Week Sunday through Saturday. The library and Project Wizard has a variety of books and resources available to help the Incirlik community observe library week. The library is open Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 6-6759.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Today

My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) — Starring Eddie Griffin and Anthony Anderson.

Lonnie, G and Dominic are three bachelor buddies from the hood who, after a lifetime of hard

partying, are in for a rude awakening when their respective girlfriends all get pregnant at the same time. The fathers-to-be embark on a hilarious and often touching journey while learning as much about themselves as they do about love and fatherhood. Showing at 7 p.m. (99 minutes)



Saturday

The Perfect Score (PG-13) — Starring Erika Christensen and Chris Evans. Six high school students desperate to get into top-notch colleges devise a plan to break into the Princeton Testing Center to steal the answers for the SAT in order to prevent the test from unfairly defining who they'll be-

come. Each has his or her own set of circumstances that leads to the conclusion that the only way to truly decide one's own fate is to beat the system. Showing at 5 p.m. (154 minutes)

The Butterfly Effect (R) — Starring Ashton Kutcher and Amy Smart. Evan is an emotionally conflicted man dealing with suppressed childhood memories. Clearly enough, he discovers a way to travel back in time, but his different actions in the past have enormous ramifications for his future and present. And every time he heads back in time to fix the problems he's created, things invariably get worse. Showing at 7 p.m. (92 minutes)

Sunday

Calendar Girls (PG-13) — Starring Julie Walters and Helen Mirren. Chris and Annie are best of friends living in a small village in the Yorkshire Dales, Chris enlists the support of her fellow Women's Club members in a fund-raising initiative for the local hospital. Her seemingly traditional idea is to produce a calendar that has a radical twist - the women will be in the nude. Before they know it, the women are hitting the headlines at home and abroad. Amidst the hype and glamour, the friendship between Chris and Annie is put to the test. Showing at 7 p.m. (108 minutes)



Thursday

You Got Served (PG-13) — Starring

Omari Grandberry and Marques Houston. Hip-hop dancers, David and Elgin, are the best dancing duo in town. But their reputations and friendship end up on the line when they face serious competition and are challenged in the biggest competition of the year. Showing at 7 p.m. (95 minutes)



At the M1

Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (PG) — 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. (93 minutes)

Stuck On You (PG-13) — noon, 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (118 minutes)

The Whole Ten Yards (PG-13) — 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. (99 minutes)

The Butterfly Effect (R) — 1:30 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (113 minutes)

The Human Stain (R) — 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (106 minutes)

The Passion of the Christ (R) — 11:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and midnight. (127 minutes)

Along Came Polly (PG-13) — 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (90 minutes)

For more information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140. The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Wing, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call the theater at 6-6986.